

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 therein and have also amended claim 3 to incorporate the limitations within claim 6 therein. As such, applicants have also canceled claims 2 and 6.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Muller et al. (US 4,783,821) in view of Jerman (US 5,209,118), Ladabaum et al. (US 5,870,351) and Loeppert (US 5,490,220).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to rewrite claim 2 in independent format and have also amended claim 3 to incorporate the limitations of claim 6 therein. Since claims 2 and 6 contained allowable subject matter, this should place claims 1 and 3 in allowable condition. Since all other claims depend from claims 1 and 3 (or were found to be allowable), this should obviate all pending rejection issues.

Accordingly, applicants believes that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw all objections and rejections and allow said claims. Should the examiner need more information regarding this matter or have further suggestions regarding this application, feel free to call the undersigned at 301-744-5603.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Homer, Reg. No. 41,848
Attorney for Assignee

OFFICE OF COUNSEL, CODE OC4
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
INDIAN HEAD DIVISION
101 STRAUSS AVE., BLDG. D-31
INDIAN HEAD, MD 20640-5035